rains. On consideration of the request and in order to ensure milling of paddy, the Government has relaxed the specification of rice in respect of paddy procured in Punjab during the current kharif marketing season.

Implementation of Weights and Measures Act in Packed Milk Industry

2833. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to amend the Prevention of Food Adultration Act to bring microbial contamination of packed milk at the consumer level is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether Government are insisting that the microbial standards set under BIS standard currently at the plant level be extended to consumer level; and

(c) if so, whether the Weights and Measures Act, 1975 would be strictly implemented in the packed milk industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No such proposal to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) is presently under consideration of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) Under PFA Rules, 1955, there is no such requirement or conditions for sale in respect of "milk/packed milk".

(c) The provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and the Standard of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 are enforced strictly by the State/UTs. Whenever any violation is detected during inspection, cases are initiated by the States/UTs against the offenders under the aforesaid Act/Rules.

Closure of Sugar Mills

2834. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to heavy import of sugar from Pakistan and Brazil, with low rate of duty, many sugar mills in country have become sick or are closed; if so, the details for every individual closed sugar mills, State-wise; and

(b) what prevents Government to increase import duty to save the sugar industry, sugar farmers and workers in millions, all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence And Statistics (DGCIS), Calcutta, a quantity of 63,6306.0 tonnes has been imported during the financial year 1998-99 (up to December, 1998). Out of this, a quantity of 441619.0 tonnes has been imported from Pakistan which constitutes about 69.40% of the total import. Further, a quantity of 44206.0 tonnes has been imported from Brazil which is about 6.95% of the total import during the above period.

Closure/sickness of sugar mills in the country could be due to variety of factors, such as inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age and bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence, excessively high cane price not commensurate with sales realisation and various other factors. This Ministry has no information about sickness/closure of any sugar mill on account of heavy import of sugar.

(b) The import of sugar was allowed under Open General Licence (OGL) in March, 1994 with zero custom duty. The Government has increased the custom duty on imported sugar thrice in the

financial year 1998-99. A basic custom duty of 5% and a countervailing duty of Rs. 850/- per tonne, was imposed on imported sugar w.e.f. 28th April, 1998. The basic custom duty on imported sugar was increased to 20% w.e.f. 14.1.1999. In the Union Budget for 1999-2000, the duty on imported sugar has further been increased from 20% to 27.5% (25% plus 10% surcharge).

Construction of FCI Godowns in Andhra Pradesh

2835. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a long pressing demand for construction of more godowns for the Food Corporation of India in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) how many private godowns have been hired by FCI for storage of foodgrains, giving the details of capacity and cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The total storage capacity available with FCI (Owned/Hired & CAP) in Andhra Pradesh as on 1.3.1999 is 21.95 lakh MT and the utilisation of this capacity is about 76%. As such the existing storage capacity is sufficient to meet the PDS requirement.

FCI propose to construct additional capacity at the following centres during the 9th Five Year Plan period:—

(1) Kakatur (Nellore)—30,000 MT

(2) Amalapuram (East Godawari)—10,000 MT

There are 15 godowns hired by the FCI in Andhra Pradesh as on 1.3.1999 with a capacity of 55,740 MTs from private parties. The details are given in the enclosed statement below.

Statement

The Storage Capacity Hired by the FCI

S. No.	Centre	Capacity
1.	Jadeherla	3340
2.	Cuddapah	2500
3.	Kodad	2000
4.	Y.Y. Depot (Nellore)	2500
5.	Rajuppalam	5000
6.	Kakatur	10000
7.	Bodhan	5300
8.	Kanteswal	5000
9.	Nizamabad	4000
10.	Kamareddy	5000
11.	Vijianagram	7100
12.	Lalchai Pela	600
13.	Bobbili	600
14.	Jammu	1000
15.	Cheepurapally	1800
	TOTAL	55740

उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय मंडलों (डिविजनों) के लिए खाद्यान्न की व्यवस्था

2836. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामलें के मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों के दो मंडलों में गरीबी रेखा के नीचे (बी०पी०एल०) श्रेणी की संख्या नाम मात्र है और जो 12 प्रतिशत से कम है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इससे पूर्व वहां प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति माह के आधार पर पूर्ण राशन उपलब्ध कराया जाता था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकारी को बी० पी० एल० योजना लागू होने के बाद उन क्षेत्रों में अकाल जैसी स्थिति उत्पन्न होने जैसे दुष्प्रभावों की जानकारी है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या उपचारात्मक उपाय किए गए हैं?